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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/619,478	07/19/2000	Shunpei Yamazaki	0756-2187	1882

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EXAMINER

ANYASO, UCHENDU O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/619,478

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Uchendu O Anyaso

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claims 1-32** are pending in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-18, 20-23, 25 and 26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawada* (U.S. 6,078,317) in view of *Kuwabara* (U.S. 6,507,332).

Regarding **independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 17 and 22**, *Sawada* teaches a ferroelectric liquid crystal display (4) (column 3, lines 38-40, figure 1 at 4).

Furthermore, *Sawada* teaches an image signal processing circuit by teaching a video signal processor (2) and digital image processor (3) (column 3, lines 38-40, figure 1 at 2).

Also, *Sawada* teaches a control circuit in the form of a display mode dependence controller (17) that is connected to the digital image processor 3 and the scanning control circuit 22 (figure 1 at 3, 17). On the other hand, *Sawada* does not show the controller 17 feeding directly to display unit 4.

However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to learn from Sawada's design as to how to connect the controller 17 directly to the display unit 4 because the scanning control circuit 22 would be made an integral part of the display unit 4. [This configuration resembles applicant's design which shows the control unit 170 connected directly to the source driver circuit 110, 120, and the gate driver circuit 130 (see *applicant's* figure 1 at 110, 120, 130).] The connection in Sawada of the controller 17 to the scanning control circuit 22 reads directly on applicant's circuit connectivity as shown in figure 1 (Compare figure 1 of Applicant and Sawada). The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a display device which can display an image in correspondence with various display modes (column 2, lines 40-45), and to achieve a scanning control circuit 22 that changes the scanning method in accordance with an instruction from the display mode dependence controller 17 in correspondence with the display mode (column 4, lines 40-43).

Furthermore, *Sawada* teaches that the gamma characteristic adjustment circuit (19) adjusts the characteristics included in the RGB image data in correspondence with the display panel (24) by utilizing a look-up table embedded within the gamma characteristic adjustment circuit (19) (column 4, lines 10-24, figure 1 at 19, 24).

However, *Sawada* does not teach explicitly a digital video signal dividing circuit. On the other hand, *Kuwabara* teaches a driving method for an active matrix type image display having a plurality of video signal lines wherein a scheme is designed to achieve a digital video dividing circuit of an original video signal (column 12, lines 10-27, figure 7).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Sawada and Kuwabara's inventions because while Sawada teaches a method of controlling a display device with various display modes, Kuwabara teaches a method of driving the display device by using a video dividing scheme to prevent degradation in the display quality, and to reduce cost by simplifying the circuit construction (see column 12, lines 10-27, 61-67 through column 13, line 4, figure 7). The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent degradation in the display quality column 12, lines 61-67 through column 13, line 4, figure 7).

Furthermore, Kuwabara teaches how the construction of the external circuits are optimized so as to fit the different scanning frequency, and the shared use of the substrate is available so that cost reduction is achieved (see Abstract).

Regarding **Claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23** and **26**, in further discussion of claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 17 and 22, *Sawada* teaches a ferroelectric liquid crystal display (4) for a computer display (see column 3, lines 38-40, figure 1 at 4, see also column 1, lines 1-19).

Regarding **Claims 4, 9, 20** and **25**, in further discussion of claims 1 and 6, 17, 22, *Sawada* teaches circuitry wherein the video signal processor and the digital image processor contain the A/D conversion circuit (13) and the gamma characteristic adjustment circuit (19) respectively (column 3, lines 61-67 through column 4, lines 10-24 figure 1 at 13, 19).

Regarding **claims 27-32**, in further discussion of claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 17 and 22, *Sawada* teaches the controller 17 connected to the clock generator 14 (see figure 1 at 14, 17).

4. **Claims 3, 8, 19 and 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawada* (U.S. 6,078,317) in view of *Kuwabara* (U.S. 6,507,332), as in claims 1, 6, 17 and 22 above, and further in view of *Jeong* (U.S. 6,008,801).

Regarding **Claims 3, 8, 19 and 24**, in further discussion of claims 1, 6, 17 and 22, *Sawada* and *Kuwabara* do not teach a source driver circuit with a D/A conversion circuit. On the other hand, *Jeong* teaches an invention related to a source driver for a thin film transistor liquid crystal display, which has a digital-to-analog converter (column 1, lines 10-14).

Thus, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine *Sawada*, *Kuwabara* and *Jeong*'s inventions because while the combination of *Sawada* and *Kuwabara* teach a driving method for an image display having a plurality of video signal lines wherein a scheme is designed to achieve a digital video dividing circuit of an original video signal, *Jeong* teaches a source driver for a thin film transistor liquid crystal display which has a digital-to-analog converter. The motivation for combining these inventions would have been to reduce the power consumption of the source driver, and thus, reduce the power consumption of the liquid crystal device (column 4, lines 1-5).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed July 8, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 17, and 22 to include the feature of a video dividing circuit within the display device. Applicant then argues that Sawada fails to teach a display panel comprising the digital video signal dividing circuit.

In response to applicant's amendments, Kuwabara was added to teach the newly added features. Specifically, Kuwabara teaches a driving method for an active matrix type image display having a plurality of video signal lines wherein a scheme is designed to achieve a digital video dividing circuit of an original video signal (column 12, lines 10-27, figure 7).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Sawada and Kuwabara's inventions because while Sawada teaches a method of controlling a display device with various display modes, Kuwabara teaches a method of driving the display device by using a video dividing scheme to prevent degradation in the display quality, and to reduce cost by simplifying the circuit construction (see column 12, lines 10-27, 61-67 through column 13, line 4, figure 7). The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent degradation in the display quality column 12, lines 61-67 through column 13, line 4, figure 7).

Also, applicant amended claims 17 and 22 to include the feature that each circuit is formed over the same substrate as a pixel portion. As a result of this amendment,

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Kuwabara was added to teach this newly added feature. Specifically, Kuwabara teaches how the construction of the external circuits are optimized so as to fit the different scanning frequency, and the shared use of the substrate is available so that cost reduction is achieved (see Abstract).

As such, applicant's amendments and arguments are not persuasive.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uchendu O. Anyaso whose telephone number is (703)

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306-5934. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

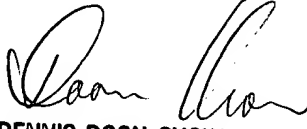
(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Uchendu O. Anyaso

09/20/2003


DENNIS-DOON CHOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER